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FM USEU BRUSSELS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 000364

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/IPA ANDREW LENTZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COMMISSION PLEDGE AT SHARM AL-SHEIKH CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 20388

¶1. Mission confirms as reported reftel that the European Commission pledged EURO 440 million (approximately \$572 million at an exchange rate of \$1.3 to the Euro) for Palestinian assistance at the Sharm al-Sheikh donor conference. In announcing the pledge Commissioner Betina Ferrero-Waldner said that half would go to Gaza and asked donors to look at the EU's PEGASE mechanism for channeling assistance to the Palestinian territories. The pledge is for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction in Gaza and for longer term development.

MURRAY

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